

2.2.15 WATER RESOURCES

The planning area has numerous intermittent and perennial (year-round) streams. There are approximately 100 miles of perennial streams in the planning area. Many of the perennial streams contain existing populations or are considered potential habitats for Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Coldwater springs are common throughout the planning area. A less common, but ecologically and culturally significant spring type that is encountered in the planning area is the thermal spring. Thermal springs near Soldier Meadows support a number of endemic, special status species. Springs, seeps and flowing wells are of considerable significance in the natural and cultural history of the Black Rock Desert. Routes used by nineteenth century explorers, soldiers and emigrants were dictated largely by the spring locations.

Objectives

- To manage the quality of water resources in the planning area in a way that achieves the chemical, physical and biological integrity that each resource is capable of producing, consistent with Nevada Revised Statute chapter 445A.
- To manage the use of water resources within the planning area to enhance the natural and cultural resource values that the NCA was created to protect, consistent with Nevada Revised Statute chapters 533–534.

Water Resources Management

Black Rock, Calico and Jackson Mountain Ranges

WATER-1: The water quality of the Mahogany Creek, Summer Camp Creek, Pole Creek, Battle Creek, Colman Creek, Snow Creek, Donnelly Creek, Bartlett Creek, Paiute Creek, Jackson Creek, Happy Creek, and Mary Sloan Creek watersheds will be managed to meet the life history requirements of the Lahontan cutthroat trout where they currently occur or as potential recovery streams as shown on Map 2-9.

Soldier Meadows

WATER-2: The water quality of those areas near Soldier Meadows that provide habitat for the endemic aquatic species will be managed to meet the life history requirements of the desert dace and springsnail species.

Remainder of the Planning Area (Other Watersheds)

WATER-3: Water quality will be provided for current and future uses through establishment of measurable water quality objectives consistent with EPA, State or Tribal water quality standards, and implement management practices to achieve those standards. Objectives and practices will be adjusted to conform to changing resource and user conditions.

Note: Permitted uses are subject to Best Management Practices, based on monitoring and evaluation, to provide the best opportunities to meet plan objectives and Land Health Standards related to water resources.

Water Rights

WATER-4: BLM will file for water rights with the State of Nevada to support uses consistent with the intent of the NCA Act that help to achieve resource management objectives and maintain healthy and functioning riparian and upland systems.



*Black Rock
Hot Spring
with Calico
Range in
Background*

*Thermal
pool near
Soldier
Meadows*

Photo
Credit *

